

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 15, and 16 have been amended. New claim 21 is added. Claims 1-21 are pending.

I. Amendments

Figure 5 has been amended to include reference numerals found at page 12, lines 4-7 of the description.

The specification has been amended at various locations to correct typographical errors.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the desktop card printer is for printing data onto cards, that the communication link enables communications with a device external to the card printer, and that the data writer is configured to write data onto the cards. The amendments are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 4, lines 5-22 and page 9, lines 1-2. In addition, the word "standardized" has been removed from claim 1.

Claim 9 has been amended in similar fashion to claim 1.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the USB hub enables the printer to communicate simultaneously with a plurality of devices internal and/or external to the printer, and to recite at least one data writer in communication with the USB hub. The amendments are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 16, line 22 to 17, line 22 and Figure 4. The language removed from claim 10 has been added to new claim 21.

Claim 12 has been amended to recite that the desktop card printer prints data onto cards, and that the data writer is configured to write data onto the cards. The amendments are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 4, lines 5-22.

Claims 15 and 16 are amended as a result of the amendments to claim 12.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

II. Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 5-8 and 17-18 are rejected as being indefinite for reciting "standardized PCL" in combination with a smart card contact. The word "standardized" has been removed from claims 1 and 12. The claims are definite and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

III. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the article "PCL" in Webopedia, in view of common desktop laser and inkjet printers, including US 6,733,103 to Murata.

Claims 9, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0001495 to Mochizuki in view of US 2002/0097414 to Utsunomiya.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0180993 to Klinefelter.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and reconsideration is requested in view of the following.

A. Claims 1-4 and 12-16

The Webopedia definition does not disclose the use of PDL in a desktop card printer as claimed. The Webopedia definition discloses laser and ink-jet printers, but does not disclose the use of PDL on desktop card printers. Common desktop laser and inkjet printers, including Murata, are not configured to write data onto cards, which are most often made of plastic and are much thicker than the sheets of paper that laser and inkjet printers print onto.

Claims 1 and 12 have been limited to a desktop card printer for printing data onto cards, where the printer includes a data writer that is configured to write data onto the cards. The use of PDL in desktop card printers represents a significant advancement in the art. Previously, desktop card printers have used platform specific language, designed to work with only a single operating system (see, e.g., page 2, lines 10-11). As a result, when connected to a personal computer having an alternate operating system, additional software was required in order to operate the desktop printer with that personal computer (see, e.g., page 2, lines 11-14).

The Webopedia definition and Murata do not disclose the use of PDL on desktop card printers, nor the advantages that arise therefrom.

For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the Webopedia definition and Murata. Claims 2-4 and 13-16 depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are patentable along with claims 1 and 12 and need not be separately distinguished. By not separately addressing claims 2-4 and 13-16, Applicants do not concede the propriety of the

rejections thereto, and Applicants reserve the right to file arguments at a later date specifically addressing the dependent claims.

B. Claims 9, 18 and 20

Mochizuki and Utsunomiya do not disclose the use of a PDL controller on desktop card printers, a desktop card printer using a Ethernet link, and a desktop card printer with a Telnet controller, as recited in claim 9. Mochizuki and Utsunomiya disclose paper printers and not desktop card printers as claimed. The printers in Mochizuki and Utsunomiya are not configured to write data onto cards, which are most often made of plastic and are much thicker than sheets of paper.

With respect to claims 18 and 20, these claims depend from claim 12 and are patentable along with claim 12 for the reasons noted above.

Claim 18 is also patentable over the cited prior art because the cited art does not disclose an internal USB hub. It is important to note that claim 18 recites a USB hub, not a USB port. A USB hub contains a plurality of USB ports to allow a plurality of peripheral devices to be simultaneously connected to the desktop card printer. See the document cited in the accompanying information disclosure statement from the web site Howstuffworks, <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/usb.htm/printable>. A USB port only allows a single peripheral device to be connected. The Webopedia definition, Murata, Mochizuki and Utsunomiya fail to disclose a USB hub, let alone an internal USB hub in a desktop card printer.

Further, claim 18 is patentable because the prior art does not disclose the recited coupler, the step of commanding a coupler, the step of commanding a smart card contact, or the step of writing data with the smart card contact to a card.

For at least these reasons, claims 9, 18 and 20 are patentable over the cited references.

C. Claims 10 and 11

Klinefelter does not disclose an internal USB hub. In Klinefelter, the card printer 20 includes a USB connection 26 and a data/communications hub 28 that is used to switch data received over USB connection 26 to the appropriate controller 22A-E (paragraph [0012]).

The hub 28 in Klinefelter is not a USB hub. A USB hub is a device that contains a plurality of USB ports to allow a plurality of peripheral devices to be simultaneously connected.

The hub 28 in Klinefelter is used to distribute data. There is no disclosure that the hub 28 in Klinefelter permits simultaneous connection with a plurality of external devices.

Claim 10 recites a desktop card printer with an internal USB hub. This permits a plurality of peripheral devices, for example one or more external controllers, one or more biometric input devices such as fingerprint scanners and iris scanners, etc. to be simultaneous connected to the card printer.

For at least these reasons, claim 10 is patentable over Klinefelter. Claim 11, and new claim 21, depend from claim 10 and are patentable along with claim 10 and need not be separately distinguished. By not separately addressing claim 11, Applicants do not concede the propriety of the rejection thereto, and Applicants reserve the right to file arguments at a later date specifically addressing dependent claim 11.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all claims should be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



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Respectfully submitted,

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In the Drawings

Figure 5 has been amended to add letters A-F next to the numbers 30, and to add the letters A-B next to the numbers 10, to correspond with the reference numerals used on page 12, lines 4-7 of the description.

A replacement sheet with the changes to Figure 5 is enclosed.